

Monroe Lake

Program Schedule

on the back!

Website

stateparks.in.gov/2954.htm



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Monroe Lake Office (Paynetown SRA): 4850 S. State Road 446, Bloomington, IN 47401, 812-837-9546
Monroe Lake Naturalist (Paynetown SRA: Activity Center): Jill Vance, 812-837-9967, jvance@dnr.IN.gov

Campground Reservations (Paynetown SRA): 866-622-6746, CAMP.IN.gov

Lake Monroe General Store and Boat Rental (at Paynetown SRA): 812-837-9909

Four Winds Resort & Marina, Boat Rental (at Fairfax SRA): 812-824-2628, fourwindsresort.com

Lake Monroe Marina and Boat Rental (at Cutright SRA): 812-837-9394, lakemonroemarina.com

Laura Thorne Training, kayaks - SUPs - wind surfing - lessons (at Fairfax SRA): 812-797-4747



Paynetown Activity Center

Fall Hours: Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Located next to the Swimming Beach inside Paynetown SRA

Got a question? Ask a Naturalist!

The **Naturalist's Office** is located inside the Activity Center. You can also pick up maps/brochures/flyers or browse our library of field guides and other books.

Live Snakes & Interpretive Exhibits

Check in on our live snakes! We rotate in a new set of wall/shelf exhibits at the beginning of each summer and feature a large selection of taxidermy animals on permanent display.

Hoosier Quest: Explore, Discover, Challenge

You can **collect a unique pin** for each Indiana State Park in *Explore* (each property can often be completed during a single day/weekend visit). Individuals can also earn special patches through both *Discover* and *Challenge*.

Free Fishing Equipment Rental

Renters must be at least 18 years of age with a valid government ID. **Check-out up to 4 sets per person** during open hours; return between 1 and 5 p.m. the next day.

Daily Craft & Coloring Table

We feature a **different craft each day**; most crafts are suitable for ages 5+. Another table is always stocked with crayons and a selection of coloring pages.

Kids' Play Area & Small World Play Station

Puppet stage, board and card games, puzzles, large felt board, picture books, touch table, and **Small World play station** (features rotating set of landscapes with miniature animals and habitat elements).

Jigsaw Puzzle Table

Spend a few minutes or a whole afternoon working on our current jigsaw puzzle (500-1500 piece puzzles designed for older children and adults). A different puzzle is rotated in after each puzzle is completed.

Recycling Center

Recycle your **aluminum cans** with us! Proceeds fund programs, activities, and exhibits. You can also recycle plastic bottles and paper (no food containers).



Paynetown Fossil Dig Love searching for fossils? Check out our Fossil Dig at the **back end of the Overflow Parking Area** at Paynetown SRA! Although rock and fossil collecting is prohibited at Monroe Lake, any rocks and fossils found *in this activity site* can be taken home with you!



Program Schedule OCTOBER 2016

Locations are at PAYNETOWN SRA, unless otherwise noted.

ROVING NATURALIST

One of our naturalists typically walks through the Campground area on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, as well as on Sunday mornings.

We may have an interesting item to share, a quick game to play, or an invite to an upcoming program. And don't be afraid to ask us your questions!

We offer both drop-in programs (from ____ to ____), where you may arrive at any point during that time period, as well as programs with a specific start time (at ____). **If the program has a specific start time, please make sure you arrive on time or we may start/leave without you!**

Programs listed here are designed for families/individuals. Schools, scouts, and other organized groups should contact the Monroe Lake Naturalist for info on scheduling a private program (minimum 2 weeks notice required).

Saturday, October 1

Canada Geese 4-1-1 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Campground Playground

Drop by to learn about the Canada Goose... did you know there are two different types – and that humans are actually responsible for the one that causes them the most trouble? Make a geese bookmark while you learn more about this bird!

Autumn Leaf Hike at 3:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at front end of Overflow Parking Area

Join us for a leisurely walk through the autumn woods... we'll discuss how leaves change color, how to recognize trees by the colors they change, and children (or adults!) can assemble a unique, colorful autumn circlet along the way. **45 to 60 minutes**

Nature's Red Light District at 8:45 p.m.

Location: Meet at back end of Overflow Parking Area

Bring a flashlight (we'll help you turn it into a night-vision-friendly red light) and join the naturalist for a peek at the clandestine activity that goes on outside as the Sun goes down... we'll explore the forest floor, a meadow area, and (if there's enough water flowing!) a small stream. **60 minutes**

Camouflage the Duck Blinds at 9:00 a.m.

Program Location: Meet at the Northfork Check Station located east of Bloomington (off of State Road 46) by the intersection of Kent Road and McGowan Road. For directions, call 812-837-9546.

Youth and adults interested in waterfowl hunting and waterfowl observation are invited to help clean, repair, and camouflage the waterfowl hunting blinds in the Stillwater-Northfork Waterfowl area. The day will include a short training session on waterfowl blinds and our waterfowl management program. Lunch will be provided for all participants! *Stay as late as 4:00p to help out...* Bring work gloves and any hand tools you feel will be helpful. Youth under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for the weather. *Donations of vegetables or meat for the stew at lunch are welcome but not necessary.*

Registration is requested (but not necessary – last minute volunteers are welcome!). Please call the Monroe Lake Office at 812-837-9546 between 8am and 4pm (ask for Rex Watters).

Sunday, October 2

Ready for Winter? from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Shelter

Drop by to explore the different ways that animals in this area Prepare for the winter months and make an animal craft.

Flora Field Day on Tuesday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m.

- Sign up for this session at <http://bit.ly/florafielddoct2016>
- Registration required by October 1.
- Free; recommended for ages 12 and up.
- Session location: Fairfax SRA

Things to Bring:

- Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (extra copies available)
- bug spray (long pants are also a good idea!)
- hat and sunglasses (for sun protection)
- water bottle (pre-filled)
- camera (if you're the picture-taking type)

Want to work on your flora identification skills? Practice with a naturalist! Field day emphasis is on proper use and application of an ID key, which opens the door to identifying thousands of species. The naturalist will work with each attendee based on their prior experience. If you've never worked with flower ID before, this is a great way to learn. If you have prior experience, this is a fun way to practice your skills (and maybe add some new blooms to your life list!). **2 hours**

Saturday, October 8

Family Feud: Nature Edition at 8 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

We'll select people from the audience to compete in this "Family Feud" style competition, with new teams stepping to the stage for each round. At the end of the night, we'll have prizes for the team that accumulated the most points! *45 to 60 minutes*

Sunday, October 9

Nutty Squirrels from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Activity Center Shelter

Drop by to learn about gray squirrels and hoarding and eating habits – their love of nuts helps keep our forests growing! Craft your own squirrel and try your hand at our "Who's Got the Nut?" table game.

Buried History: Monroe Lake Cemeteries Driving Tour Tuesday, October 11 at 9:30 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/buriedhistoryoct2016>
- Program fee is \$5 per person; limited to 20 people.
- Registration required by Oct 8.
- Tour meets at Paynetown SRA.

Before the reservoir was built, small communities and family farms were spread throughout the Salt Creek valley. That same valley became dotted with cemeteries of all sizes, from single plots to larger platted burial areas. This program will focus on the cemeteries that were relocated when the reservoir was built - we'll visit the remnants of one, the former location of another, and then take a walk through the cemetery that was created specifically to hold the relocated graves. **2 hours 30 minutes**

Nature on the Water: Fall Colors Paddle!

Wednesday, October 12 at 10:00 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/naturewateroct2016>
- Preregistration is required by October 8.
- Program fee is \$10 per person.
- Limited to 8 people. Restricted to ages 16 and up.
- All participants must have at least 2 hours of prior paddling experience.
- Bring your own canoe/kayak, or rent a kayak from us for an additional \$25.

Location: Salt Creek SRA

Explore the quieter side of Monroe Lake during these guided paddling trips that journey through backwaters, wetlands, bays, and/or slow-moving streams. Trips highlight beautiful views, hidden wildlife, aquatic plants, and unique land features. **2 hours**

Saturday, October 15

The Story of the Scarecrow at 11:00 a.m.

Location: *Activity Center Amphitheater*

What's the deal with scarecrows? Where did they come from and how did they become associated with autumn? Explore the history behind them and make your own miniature scarecrow to take home. *45 minutes*

Fall Colors Peninsula Hike at 3:30 p.m.

Location: *Meet at back end of Overflow Parking Area*

Savor the beautiful fall colors as we hike along an old road bed out to a narrow peninsula (which we'll be able to explore, if the water is low enough for us to access it!). Bring a water bottle. *1½ to 2 hours*

Naked Eye Astronomy at 8:00 p.m.

Location: *Swimming Beach*

Weather Notice This program requires clear or mostly clear skies. It will be cancelled if there is too much cloud cover. If sky conditions look iffy, call the Activity Center at 812-837-9967 to check program status.

Special Request Please do not shine your vehicle headlights onto the swimming beach when arriving/departing! Bright lights make it harder for our eyes to see all of the amazing objects in the night sky. Bring a blanket (recommended!) to lie on (or some camp chairs) and relax on the beach as we take a tour of the night sky... we'll navigate through the universe and share stories about the constellations. *45 minutes*

Sunday, October 16

Seed Spreader Hike at 1:30 p.m.

Location: *Meet at the back end of the Overflow Parking Area*

Many plants rely on animals (including humans!) to help spread their seeds. We'll hike through a small field area and do some deliberate seed spreading while we're there – as we examine how plants get animals to do this important work for them. *30 to 45 minutes*

Saturday, October 22

The Land Under the Lake from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: *Campground Playground*

Why does Monroe Lake exist? Drop by to see a rainfall flooding simulation and learn about how our local geology and the way that people once used this land led to the construction of Monroe Lake.

Pumpkin Power at 4:00 p.m.

Location: *Activity Center Amphitheater*

Discover the origins of the pumpkin and the jack-o-lantern – then make a pumpkin craft to take home. *30 minutes*

Hear Like a Deer Night Hike at 7:30 p.m. **Location:** *Meet at the front end of the Overflow Parking Lot*

Unlike true crepuscular (yes, that's a real word!) and nocturnal animals, humans aren't well-adapted to life after dark. But that doesn't mean we can't cheat a little... leave your flashlight behind and join the naturalist for a walk through the woods – where we'll try to sharpen your night-time senses! *60 minutes*

Sunday, October 23

Mulling Over Moles from 12:30 to 2 p.m. **Location:** *Campground Playground*

It's National Mole Day! Did you know that a mole is actually a unit of measurement? Drop by to discover how many moles (the unit of measurement) a typical mole (the little furry rodent) weighs, learn more about the types of moles (the rodent!) that hang out in our area, and make an adorable mole (again, the rodent!) craft to take home.

Ghostly Gathering

Friday, October 28

Trick-or-Treat Bags **from 3 to 5:15 p.m.**

Location: Activity Center Shelter

Get ready for the fun on Saturday evening by dropping by to craft your own trick-or-treat bag this afternoon. We'll have everything you need to make sure that YOUR bag of candy won't get confused with anybody else's!

Jack-o-Lantern Lore **at 5:30 p.m.**

Location: Activity Center

Amphitheater

Why do we carve pumpkins for Halloween? Join us to learn about the history and lore of jack-o-lanterns, and make a simple pumpkin craft at the end of the program. *45 minutes*

A Natural History of ZOMBIES **at 8:00 p.m.**

Location: Activity Center

Amphitheater

We'll take you through a whirlwind history of ZOMBIES, from their origins in Haitian folklore to their more recent depictions in pop culture. *45 minutes*

Saturday, October 29

Creepy, Crawly Crafts from 1 to 3 p.m.

Program Location: Activity Center Shelter

Drop by to make a few creepy, crawly crafts for Halloween! Children under age 13 should be accompanied by an adult helper (thanks!).

Costume Contest at 4:00 p.m.

Program Location: Activity Center Amphitheater

We want to see all of your crazy and creative costumes! Dress up and "walk the runway" for your fellow campers. We'll be awarding prizes to best costume in each **age group** (ages 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-17, and 18+) -- PLUS an award for the **best dog** in costume (well behaved canines only please)! Please be respectful of others by wearing family-friendly costumes.

Trick-or-Treating from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Program Location: Campground

Children (in age and spirit!) are invited to wander the Campground this evening in search of delicious treats! Please be cautious of vehicles on the roads; for safety reasons, at least one adult should accompany each group of children. As you walk the Campground, don't forget to also write down the number of your favorite campsite for the Campsite Decorating Contest!

Campers are encouraged to support this event by handing out candy at their campsites! If you are participating, please sit in a visible spot near the road.

Halloween Party! from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Program Location: Activity Center

We're throwing a party and you're invited! Games, activities, and refreshments... something for all ages. Activities will take place both in and outside the building, so please dress for the temperature.

Campsite Decorating Contest. Judging is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday!

The Campground Gate will hand out voting ballots to campers (one per person, please!) as they check-in for the weekend. If you didn't get a ballot, or need more, extras can be requested at the Campground Gate.

Walk the Campground between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday night, pick your favorite decorated campsite, and **turn your ballot in to the Campground Gate by 10 p.m.**

Prizes will go to the two campsites that receive the most votes, plus a third "staff choice" winner.

Winners announced on our Facebook Page by Monday morning ([facebook.com/monroelake](https://www.facebook.com/monroelake)). Prizes will be distributed via postal mail (to the person listed on the campsite registration).

Lunch with Nature Series: Canada Geese

Monday, October 31 at 11:00 a.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/lwnoct2016>
- Register by October 28.
- Limited to 12 people, recommended for adults.
- Location: Paynetown SRA

Join us for our monthly Lunch with Nature Series!
Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the main presentation. Afterwards, there is a short hike/activity that highlights the topic. **90 minutes**

This month's topic is: Canada Geese. Love 'em or hate 'em, you better get used to them! Canada geese are incredibly prolific, but their story is more complicated (and more human-driven) than you might think.

Join us during November and December...

Allens Creek Fossil Beds Hike

Lunch with Nature Sessions

Hays Cemetery Hike

Friendship Cemetery Tour

Geminids Meteor Shower Viewing

Chandler Cemetery Tour

Dates and details available soon!

Mark your calendar now...

January 1: First Day Trail Run and Walk

JANUARY 27-29: EYES ON EAGLES WEEKEND